

**SPORTS FINAL**

Hockey team loses to Howell North Story, Page 1B

# Granite City Press Record

VOLUME 94, NUMBER 49

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1996

(USPS226-160) FIFTY CENTS

**NEWS**

The widening investigation around child pornography nets another arrest here.

Page 3A

**PEOPLE**

A Tennessee-based company has purchased St. Clair Square.

Page 10A



(Staff photo by JOHN FRESE)

**Special treat** — Marshall School first grader Tegan Martin, wearing a bonnet for Thanksgiving, giggles at a joke told by Granite City Police Chief David Ruebhausen while eating lunch in the school's Starlite Cafe. The cafe is a special treat for children who have not had any disciplinary problems in the cafeteria in the past month. More photos on Page 5A.

## Election field growing: 28 now have petitions

By Bob Slatte  
Staff writer

Several contested races are anticipated in the April 1 election in Granite City, where 28 candidates are seeking 13 positions of Monday for 13 positions to be elected.

A mayor, city clerk, treasurer and eight aldermen are to be elected in the city.

A Granite City Township supervisor and

assessor are also to be elected. Those individuals elected aldermen in the city also serve as township assessors.

All incumbents, with the exception of Township Supervisor Bernie Hagnauer, have picked up petitions and plan to seek re-election.

Candidates must file petitions between Jan. 13 and Jan. 29 to have their names placed on the April 1 ballot.

Those picking up petitions include:

— Jerry Lakin  
Street superintendent

**Ice blamed for I-270 crash**

## Woman dies in accident

Monday's ice storm claimed at least one life in the area.

Kelly N. Ellis Johnson, 37, of Staunton, died after her car hit a patch of ice on Interstate 270 about 6 p.m. Monday and the median and crashed head-on into a westbound van, Madison Coroner Dallas Burke said.

Eastbound and westbound lanes of I-270 near Illinois Route 159 were closed while fire and rescue crews cleaned up the scene and Illinois State Police reconstructed the accident.

The driver of the 1995 Ford van, Gilberto Terera, 49, of Kansas City, Mo., taken to Anderson Hospital in Maryville, treated and released without serious injuries.

Ellis Johnson was driving a 1994 Chevrolet Cavalier eastbound on I-270 when the car went out of control on an icy stretch, Burke said. The car crossed the median and the westbound lanes hit a concrete rail and bounced back into oncoming traffic, she said.

Ellis Johnson was pronounced dead at the scene.

No other serious accidents were reported. There were several reports of minor ones throughout the day. There also were several reports of downed power lines due to ice build-ups on tree limbs.

While some Metro East schools let out early

City street crews were concentrating on opening up catch basins until the rain turned to freezing rain. Then the crews began spreading salt.

— Jerry Lakin  
Street superintendent

because of icy weather, local school officials decided to follow suit because that often causes confusion with bus schedules and creates problems for families when the parents work.

Road crews got a good jump on the storm, which dumped more than 2 inches of rain before turning to sleet and ice early Monday afternoon.

Granite City Street Superintendent Jerry Lakin said crews were concentrating on opening up catch basins until the rain turned to freezing rain. Then his crews began spreading salt.

(See CRASH, Page 12A)

## In the Press-Record

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John Fuller, Chief Meteorologist, KSDK NewsChannel 5

**LAST THANKSGIVING**  
NOV. 23, 1995  
SUNNY  
HI 50, LO 28

**THANKSGIVING RECORDS**  
Record high in 1931 75°  
Record low in 1950 8°

## Top Teen

Casey Ashby has been accepted as a member of the 1997 Springfield American National Honor Band for its 20th anniversary tour of Europe. Ashby, section leader of the GCCHS Marching Warrior drumline, was chosen on the basis of maturity, performance and the ability to represent American Youth. He will attend five days of rehearsals before flying to Europe for a 14-day tour of performances in Luxembourg, Austria, Liechtenstein, Germany and Belgium as well as a July 4 performance in Geneva, Switzerland. His participation in the World Music Contest in Kerkrade, Holland.

Ashby is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Ashby of Granite City.



Casey Ashby

## Madison schools seek levy hike

By Scott Cousins  
Staff writer

The Madison School District is seeking a 7.25 percent increase in this year's tax levy, but there should be little change in the district's tax rate.

According to figures provided by Superintendent Gary Allison, the total tax sought is about \$1.47 million. Depending on the equalized assessed value of property in the district, the tax rate should be between 5.6492 and 5.8548 per \$100 equalized assessed

value. Last year's rate was 5.6492.

At those rates, the owner of a home valued at \$30,000 would pay between \$562 and \$585 in taxes for the school district. School district taxes make up about half of a homeowner's property tax bill.

A public hearing on the 1996 tax levy will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19. Because the amount sought (See LEVY, Page 12A)

## Entertainment tax plan advances

Raceway officials upset with proposal

By Scott Cousins  
Staff writer

The city of Madison will go ahead with plans for an entertainment tax for spectators at Gateway International Raceway, but it is something raceway officials are not happy about.

At a special meeting Friday, the council voted 6-1 in favor of the tax. City Attorney Casper Nighohossian drew up an ordinance for a graduated tax starting next year. The ordinance is expected to be voted on at the Dec. 3 council meeting. Alderman Norris Houston voted against preparing the ordinance, and Mike Vrana abstained.

Raceway officials had opposed a tax — at least until the operation was allowed to run a few years.

Formerly Christopher Pook, president of the Grand Prix Association of Long Beach, which owns Gateway, said he expected some kind of a tax, but had asked the city to wait at least three years before instituting it.

The new fee structure was the subject of

"What can we say? We're not happy. We consider it pretty bad to tax an entity before it gets off the ground."

— Rod Wolter  
Racetrack manager

negotiations between city officials and Pook. Alderman John Hamm, chairman of the Finance Committee, said he talked to Pook Friday.

"What can we say? We're not happy," said Rod Wolter, the racetrack's general manager. "We consider it pretty bad to tax an entity before it gets off the ground."

"They talk about a 'TIF,' but we won't realize that for two years," he said.

According to the redevelopment agreement (See TAX, Page 6A)



(Staff photo by JOHN FRESE)

**Contest** — City Clerk Judy Whitaker, left, and Chef Sharon VanMeter judge the a baking contest held during the Associates' Week celebrating the 75th anniversary of St. Elizabeth Medical Center. The items were offered for sale after the judging to raise money for charity. More photos on Page 3A.

# Superintendent sees progress

Despite low test scores, Allison lauds Madison teachers

By Scott Cousins  
Staff writer

While low test scores are "unacceptable," judging a school system solely by standardized test scores doesn't show the progress being made in the district, according to Madison School Superintendent Gary Allison.

At Thursday's board meeting, Allison talked about the district's 1996 School Report Cards, issued last month by the Illinois State Board of Education.

The report cards show Madison students score below state averages, and recent news accounts have pointed out that in one area — writing test scores for 10th grade students — 92 percent of the district's students taking the test did not meet state goals.

"I know test scores are low and you know it," Allison told the board. "One test score is not an appropriate way to judge."

He discussed the test scores extensively in a Superintendent's Report given to board members. One of the most important factors is the high number of at-risk students.

The number of students in low-income families is about 90 percent, which Allison said is probably the third or fourth highest in the state.

The district also has to deal with a mobility rate — the number of students moving in or out of the district during a given year — of more than twice the state rate.

The results (for low test scores) are vast and profound," Allison said. "These children typically come to school less prepared and less ready to learn, come to

school from a family that received less schooling, and have a home environment that is not proactively supportive of school," he said.

"The federal government recognized this fact that at-risk kids do not have a level playing field," he said.

He also said many of the students are second and third generation school dropouts, and approximately 15 percent of the sophomores do not return for their junior year.

"How generous do you really believe the student is when taking this test in April and the student is not going to return in the fall?" he said. "The (Illinois) Tax Foundation rates Madison High School's performance in the middle of the pack compared to the other 28 unit high schools with at least 45 percent low-income students. Why stop at 45 percent when we have 90 percent?"

Despite the numbers, Allison said he believes the district's teachers are doing a very good job.

"I believe that the majority of our staff are performing in an incredible manner, and perhaps going above and beyond the odds," he said. "They are truly dedicated and care for our children, an attribute not tested or reported, but one that should make a great deal of difference to a parent who may be evaluating an educational placement for their child."



Gary Allison

According to the high school report card, MHS has a graduation rate of 67 percent, based on the number of students enrolled as freshmen four years earlier. The state average is 80.5 percent.

Report cards said that at the 10th grade level the majority of students do not meet state goals in reading, mathematics or writing.

However, in the 11th grade, 88 percent of students tested exceed goals in science, and 86 percent meet or exceed goals in social science.

At Madison Middle School, sixth- and eighth-grade students were tested in reading, science and social studies.

For sixth graders, 75 percent of reading and 53 percent of mathematics students did not meet state goals, while 87 percent of writing students met or exceeded the goals.

In the eighth grade, 67 percent of reading and 32 percent of mathematics students did not meet state goals. Writing test scores were evenly split at 50 percent.

At Blair Elementary School 50 percent of students did not meet state reading goals, while 68 percent met or exceeded math and 70 percent met or exceeded writing goals.

At Harris Elementary School 56 percent of third graders tested did not meet state math, while 77 percent met or exceeded state math and 63 percent met or exceeded writing goals.

In the fourth grade, 52 percent of students met or exceeded goals in science, while 63 percent did not meet goals in social studies.

## Test scores should rise, Allison says

By Scott Cousins  
Staff writer

Madison School Superintendent Gary Allison said he is proud of the progress made in the district, and extends to see gradual improvements in areas like test scores.

He said programs such as an all-day kindergarten, an alternative program at the elementary level and an emphasis on improving teaching throughout the district will produce positive results in the classroom.

"I'm pleased with the progress we're making," he said. "And we will see progress, measurable improvements in the process."

As an example, he said the number of failing grades given

"While test scores are not our only concern — nutrition, self-esteem, physical or mental abuse, safety, and so on are in there also — the district is continuing with school improvement. Madison does not need to make excuses."

— Gary Allison  
Superintendent

at Madison High School is down about two percent for the last grading period.

While not much of an improvement, Allison said, that is a start, and there will be more improvements in the future.

He added that the district is also making strides with parent participation; he cited reading programs that week at Blair and Harris elementary school.

There are so many positive things going on...that I just

burst at the seams with pride," he said.

He pointed out that social studies teacher John Harris was recently recognized as an annual Emerson Elementary Excellence in Teaching Awards program, and there are many other positive programs going on throughout the district.

"While test scores are not our only concern — nutrition, self-esteem, physical or mental abuse, safety, and so on are in there also — the district is

continuing with school improvement," he said. "Madison does not need to make excuses."

"We should be proud of the opportunities it provides its community with limited resources and against the odds, and continue the direction of the school improvement on which it has embarked," he said. "I believe we are on the right road."

"It is true that our scores are not as good as we would like," he said. "As long as any district has 1 percent of their children not reaching standards, performance must be improved."

"This district knows and accepts this, and has engaged in a school improvement program to try to completely improve scores," he said. "It is also important to understand that Madison does offer a K-12 curriculum that will prepare a student for acceptance to any public university in Illinois...much like the horse, the water is there if the students will simply drink it."

## Venice changes trash schedule

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday the city of Venice is changing its trash pickup schedule.

The Street Department will be closed Thursday and Friday. Trash pickup will be Monday, Nov. 25 through Wednesday, Nov. 27.

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6:00 P.M.  
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## Granite City Press-Record

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## News in review

News in review provides a summary of some of the past week's stories. This column is designed for out-of-town readers who do not receive the Sunday and Wednesday Press-Record/Journals.

### Pontoon OKs FEMA response

A plan for correcting and mitigating 15 federal floodplain violations was approved by the Pontoon Beach Village Board and was to be forwarded to the Federal Emergency Management Agency last week.

The village's plan was unanimously approved at a special meeting of the village board Wednesday.

According to the plan, the village will be in full compliance with FEMA regulations by April 1998.

The violations involved properties built in the 100-year flood plain. In each of the cases, the lowest elevations of the structures are below 417 feet above sea level — the 100-year flood level. Properties involved include seven mobile homes in the Quality Beach Mobile Home Park, one business on Illinois 111, six homes in the Timberlake Subdivision, and one home on East Lake Drive.

### Hamm resigns school board

Citing the need to devote more time to his campaign for mayor, board President and city Alderman John Hamm resigned from the Madison School Board Thursday.

Hammond and Madison City Clerk William Weidner are the two announced candidates to fill the post of retiring Mayor John Hamm.

The board appointed Vice President Sharon Cass to replace Hamm, and James E. Newsome as vice president.

### Haine sues Madison

Madison County officials are questioning the city of Madison's legal right to annex a Chouteau Island landfill under a special state law applying only to the city.

Madison County State's Attorney William Haine filed a complaint Thursday asking that a city ordinance annexing more than 500 acres under the special law be declared invalid.

The tract, which is about five miles beyond the city's old limits in a formerly unincorporated area of the county, includes Waste Management's Chain of Rocks Landfill and the old Chain of Rocks Bridge, which is owned by the city.

Madison officials said the annexation was the city's way of gaining access to the bridge to facilitate plans by Gateway Bridge to expand it as a hiking and biking trail.

But the annexation also transfers jurisdiction over any future landfill expansion from the county to the city.

### Suspected killer surrenders

A 28-year-old U.S. Army special forces staff sergeant who police say murdered an ex-wife Tuesday in Tennessee and was thought to be heading to Madison to do the same to another ex-wife, instead turned himself in to authorities in Kentucky.

Donald F. Leonard, who faces rape and kidnapping charges here but was released from jail last month after his bond was reduced, turned himself in at 4:50 p.m. Thursday at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Authorities in Clarksville, Tenn., and across the Midwest, had been searching for Leonard since 8:30 a.m. Tuesday when he allegedly shot Cherilyn Leonard, 24, one of his former wives.

His other ex-wife, who resides in Madison and whom police said he had threatened to kill, is the victim in the rape and kidnapping charges he faces in Madison County.

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\*Please keep in mind that after December 10, UPS two day and 3rd day packages are not time-definite nor money back guaranteed.

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By Bob State  
Staff writer

A 47-year-old man has been charged with aggravated criminal homicide, having killed his wife.

Jack Walker, 47, of two Friday.

Bond on the man was set at \$100,000.

He is the second man to be charged with killing his wife.

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Rogers cas

I-27

By Scott Coo

Staff writer

The death accident in the construction zone is expected to Madison County next week.

Madison Cou

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# Another sex abuse charge is issued

By Bob Slatte  
Staff writer

A 47-year-old New Athens man has been charged with four counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse for allegedly having sex with two different underage girls in Granite City.

Jack Walter Rogers was charged Friday in two separate warrants filed Friday.

Bond on the warrants totals \$100,000. He is alleged to have had sexual relations with two underage Granite City girls between November 1995 and July of this year.

He is the seventh person arrested as a result of an investigation into an alleged child pornography operation in Granite City.

On Thursday, Edward James Harper, 71, of the 3000 block of Marvile Road, was charged with four counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse. Harper posted \$10,000 cash bond and was released from the Madison County jail.

Harper and Rogers allegedly paid young girls to perform sex acts at the business owned by Harper on Nameoki Road, Maj. Kip Pomeroy of the Granite City police department said.

"Rogers met the girls through Harper," Pomeroy said.

The two girls named as victims in the Rogers case are also named as

victims in child pornography and sexual abuse charges facing Ernest Travick of Granite City.

Travick, of the 2400 block of Iowa Street, was held in the Madison County jail awaiting trial on multiple counts of child pornography and aggravated criminal sexual abuse.

Last month, police seized hundreds of videotapes, hundreds of photographs and computer files from Travick's home. Many of the materials contained images of children naked or performing sex, police said.

Police are still reviewing the evidence and more charges are expected, police said.

Previously charged in connection with the alleged child pornography operation are Tommie Hayes, 40, of the 2500 block of Washington Avenue; Callie J. Hunt, 19, of the 4700 block of Kirkpatrick Homes; and William of Meadow, 22, who lived with Travick.

Hunt is charged with one count of child pornography for allegedly filming a young girl simulating a sex act and for soliciting another girl to pose nude.

Meadow is charged with one count of aggravated criminal sexual abuse for allegedly performing a sex act with a 15-year-old girl.

Harper and Rogers allegedly paid young girls to perform sex acts at the business owned by Harper on Nameoki Road, Maj. Kip Pomeroy of the Granite City police department said.

"Rogers met the girls through Harper," Pomeroy said.

The two girls named as victims in the Rogers case are also named as

## Grand jury to hear I-270 fatality case

By Scott Cousins  
Staff writer

The deaths of two people in an auto accident in the Interstate 270 construction zone near Pontoon Beach is expected to be taken before a Madison County grand jury — probably next week.

Madison County State's Attorney Bill Haine said his office is waiting for the official results of blood tests before bringing the case.

He said the man, 39, of Freeburg, was charged with DUI and improper lane usage. Haine said he was going to seek charges of reckless homicide.

"We are praying that the state police investigation is not complete," Haine said Tuesday.

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, the case would probably be tried in early December.

He said the final decision on what charges his office will seek depends on the official results of blood tests, which have not been completed.

Robin Chapman, 32, of Worden, and George Steward, 30, of Gillespie, were killed Nov. 8, when a pickup truck

driven by Guttsell struck them while they were changing a tire in the eastbound lane of I-270.

The state's attorney is under investigation, and has been the scene of numerous accidents, mostly fender-benders.

Guttsell, 26, of Alton, was treated and released for minor injuries.

A blood sample was taken from Guttsell at the hospital after a search warrant was issued.

According to the State Police, at about 11:50 p.m., a car driven by the Steward had a flat tire in the eastbound lane of I-270 near the intersection with Illinois 117.



**Winners** — In top photo, the lunch crowd in Bonaventure's Cafeteria looks over the items from the associates' baking contest at St. Elizabeth Medical Center. Above, Susan Bausch, Quality Customer Services coordinator at the medical center, slices one of the cakes for the bake sale. Middle left, above, the contest judges, Chef Sharon Van Meter, City Clerk Judy Whitaker and Bob Slatte of the *Granite City Press-Record/Journal*, look over the entries. At left, volunteer Pai Konzen slices a cake for the bake sale.

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# Opinions

## Carol's Comments

## Moratorium on Madonna news

The holiday season is no longer just around the corner; it's here, right on the doorstep with the morning paper.

And speaking of those publications, I have a suggestion. Nay, a prayer. How about a moratorium on newsworthy coverage of the affairs of a number of celebrities whose importance to many of us has already been overhyped. Just after Christmas, pretty please?

Do we really care that Madonna's pet dog is currently on some canine couch, whining his little heart out to a doggie shirt that it's been replaced in its owner's affection by the infant the P.D.'s baby Harry. Levin refers to as The Most Famous Baby in the History of Western Civilization. A title by the way, which I will soon have to relinquish to the yet-unborn child of Michael Jackson and Debbie Rowe. Two more folks about whom I'd like to say nothing at all.

While we're at it, let's include Fergie and Di on that list. For that matter, virtually all the influences to the entire House of Windsor, unless, of course, the Queen. Mum, who seems still to be in possession of her faculties, dies of embolism, and over the course of her grandkids.

It's asking too much, I know, to plead for a suspension of coverage of the poppycock and the dally frivolities of political leaders, but at least most of us know well enough to take it with a shake of salt.

How many of us, for example, expect and true change in the persona of Newt the Mouth, in spite of his seemingly humbled and repentant promise of a more modest, born-again approach to his position as Speaker of the House?

The answer is: About as many of us who took seriously the doomsday forecast of Dick Gephart last week when he disengaged-brain-opened-mouth and questioned the affordability and necessity of the Internet. Fighting a program, a program he'd supported vigorously as long as McDonnell-Douglas was still in the running for contract award. Surely, Gephart didn't



Carol Clarkin

think his rapid turnaround would go unnoticed?

On a personal level, I'm planning to try to mend my ways for the holidays. Curb the caustic tongue, review that old book which has slipped from memory, practice patience, help other old ladies across the street. That kind of thing. It won't be easy, I'm sure, but I'd like to become a model of the kind and gentle, but I'll give it the old college try.

Of course, before I begin this transformation (tomorrow?), let me assure those interested that I won't be purchasing certain gifts for friends and family members, like "Puff," neckties and boxer shorts. No self-respecting man of my acquaintance would dream of donning such asinine items. At least not until I might be buying underwear.

Neither will any small child on my gift list receive any of the Winnie-the-Pooh products, including the Disney empire. No orange-colored polo-shirted Pooh, no Tigger looking like Tony the Tiger, no stationary or Battersea boxes. A hundred percent Pooh who grew up with Pooh and Christopher Robin, but my own little boycott of the deal that changed the framework from Sesame to Disney. At least in this case, Disney had to pay a A.M.A. Milne's family for the marketing rights.

Tonight they've chosen these hideous characters from the area of public domain. Freebies.

Now that I've got that off my chest, I look forward to the next few weeks for some sickening sweetness and light.

My friends may not recognize me, but no need to worry. I'll revert to type the day after Christmas.

## FOUR MORE YEARS!! FOUR MORE YEARS!!



## Letters to the editor

### Candidate offers pledge

TO THE EDITOR:

To the residents of the 5th Ward of Granite City, allow me to introduce myself to you. I am Michael Patton. I live at 203 Dennis Ave. The reason that I am running for city alderman is that I know that I can do a far better job than my opponent, Ed Asadorian.

My reasons are simple, yet practical. I am in favor of a residential 1 percent tax cut with the elimination of the city treasurer and combining that position into the city clerk and controller position.

I'm in favor of term limits to the elected positions in the city so that we can get bright and up-to-date faces on the city council who know what they are doing. Instead of just increasing politicians' wallets with practice. I am in favor of that position and combining that position into the city clerk and controller position.

I would like to see a new sewer system installed in Granite City with the help of grants from the state. I also believe that every resident is important and not just a few, so I am in favor of all streets having the leaves, snow, limbs and other obstruction removed in a timely fashion.

Four years ago, your alderman said that he would run the city like a business; now it's time that you did. Like all business, we need to hire and replace those who don't want to work with those who do and are competent. Remember, that's your city.

I would like to see a comprehensive, 24-hour answering system for the city to answer concerns about what needs to be done.

Those who know me know that my word is good; these are not just campaign promises — these are etched in stone.

This is Granite City, your city. In this city we see new faces and new dreams for the city other than the same old nonsense we have had for the past four years.

If this is my vision for the city as yours, or if you can help through either volunteering time or sharing ideas to make these visions possible, please call (618) 452-7823 or write to 2153 Delmar Ave., Granite City, IL 62040.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing and meeting with you.

MICHAEL PATTON

Granite City

### EPA mislead local residents

TO THE EDITOR:

Following is a letter sent to John P. Perrecone, Community Involvement Coordinator, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 577 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604-3550.

Dear Mr. Perrecone: I am in receipt of your form

letter of Oct. 24, 1996, addressed to "Dear Resident" explaining all of the great things EPA is doing for me. You wanted to know if I had any questions, well, don't be afraid to ask.

I find it reprehensible that those of us who trusted the EPA and allowed you on our property and the cleanup were duped and misled by your representatives. We were told that once the cleanup on our property was completed, we would be given a clearance by the EPA. Never were we given any caveats by any of your representatives that unless the easement or right-of-way around one or more side of our property was also cleaned up, that we would not be given clearance on our property. Also, we learned that if you allow you do my property and my neighbor will not let you do his property, I cannot get a clearance from the EPA.

What kind of a game are you people playing with my citizens' rights? You have no control over property that the city owns, nor do I have any control over my neighbor, exercising his civil rights, who decides to do with his property.

You, as a representative of the EPA, Brad Bradley and Steve Clarkin, in your position as manager in my position perpetrated a fraud on the people in Granite City, Madison and Venice by sins of omission and negligence. You served on the Mayor's Citizen Committee from the beginning of this project and attended all of the committee meetings with your representatives. Not one time have we ever told that if your neighbor did not allow the cleanup, you would not be given a clearance. This has to be the keep secret of the Superfund. Please consider by sending a copy of this letter to the local papers, maybe I can reach at least some of the citizens in Granite City, Madison, and Venice and let them know that they are in a "Catch-22" situation, and that the EPA, wasting the taxpayer's money, is the only winner in this charade.

Those who know me know that my word is good; these are not just campaign promises — these are etched in stone.

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Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing and meeting with you.

MICHAEL PATTON

Granite City

County sees drop in crime

TO THE EDITOR:

Statistics recently released by the Illinois State Police, Department of Uniform Crime Reports, indicate a decrease in crime in Madison County. Overall, crime levels are lower for the first six months of 1996 compared with the same period in 1995. Some have asked my opinion regarding this crime decrease. I wish to share my thoughts with your readers.

It is not unusual for any individual or group to take credit for this obvious good news. I think credit can be placed at the doorsteps of some groups of concerned citizens and law enforcement professionals.

done so aggressively and with courage.

Those who control the purse strings of tax money in this county should not be forgotten. The city commissioners, aldermen and trustees are concerned about crime and want safe communities. The majority of them have their mouth where they become involved. They want to help the police in order to help themselves. Some individuals are too afraid to be commanded and thanked.

The police officers and deputy sheriffs in this county are, and should be, recognized for their efforts.

They are the ones on the front lines everyday attacking this problem for all of us. Arrests of the criminals are up and the crime rate is going down.

It's not hard to understand that the professional police officers in this county are doing their jobs and, all too often, they are not given the credit they deserve. Madison County is very fortunate to have this high caliber of police service and dedication to the public safety in the ranks of their police agencies.

Madison County State's Attorney Bill Haine and his professional staff of prosecuting attorneys must share in the success of this fight against crime rate.

His office plays a vital role in the criminal justice system. He and his assistants are doing their jobs well. They too, must deal with the criminal element and have prosecuted the selfish offenders within the limits of the law.

Just a few weeks ago the voters in this county gave Bill Haine an overwhelming vote of confidence for his efforts with his re-election to office for another four years. This is a wise move. Mr. Haine and his staff are not afraid to tackle this crime problem and have

## Higher DUI level would save lives

(This column was written by Charles Geer of Granite City.)

Think about 681 people. The number of students in Holy Family School, plus their parents, teachers, coaches and staff workers. Enough to fill a little more than 15 Bi-State buses or two jet airliners. A little less than 2 percent of the 1996 population of Granite City.

Now imagine every one of them is dead.

You now have an idea of how many Illinois residents were killed in drunk driving highway crashes in 1995. Please note, I do not call them accidents. Neither does Secretary of State George Ryan. He brought those figures to attention in late September when he announced his support for lowering the blood alcohol content limit for drivers from .10 to .08.

Thirty-three states have a .08 BAC law on the books. Most others, including Illinois, use a slightly more lenient .10 BAC. Let's not forget that the limit to .08 passed the House last year to 25, then stalled out in the Senate.

The figures come from a study by the University School of Public Health as published in the *American Journal of Public Health*. So do these: The number of drunk drivers killed in 1995 — 1,995 for the first time since 1989 — from 16,589 in 1994 to 17,274 in 1995.

The *Journal* report found as many as 60 percent of those fatalities could have been prevented if all 50 states had adopted a .08 BAC.

Bringing this into perspective, Ryan conservatively estimates at

least 65 to 70 lives — about two classrooms full of Holy Family students — could be saved in Illinois each year.

Those opposing the tougher limit say it's a take-away from casual social drinkers, rather than problem drinkers. In my own experience, however, it's the casual drinkers you have to worry about also.

Police officers, paramedics, and emergency room workers call the holidays "amateur nights," and for good reason.

For example, you're a 160-pound man, that's four alcoholic drinks consumed on an empty stomach over an hour's time. And when it comes to alcohol, a shot is a shot; a glass of beer has the same alcohol of 4 ounces of wine or 1 1/2 ounces of hard liquor.

You get just as drunk at an elegant dinner or a seedy roadside house.

Even with a .08 BAC, a driver is three times as likely to be involved in a single-vehicle crash involving a fatality.

It's unrealistic to expect government to ban alcohol from society. The failure of Prohibition comes to mind, but it is equally unrealistic to allow those who drink and drive to endanger themselves and others.

Is .08 enough? Ask anyone whose life has been shattered by a drunk driver. Or imagine 681 people dead. Maybe your husband, wife or child.

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Feasting at the are, left photo from lower Stringer, A. — Ashley B. Baldwin, A. Stacy Wiley and Downs. All appear to be wo

Principal's Secre

Chief Ruebau

# People

## A special treat for a lot of deserving kids



Marshall School first grader Patrick Skinner, above left, eats a taco while having lunch with classmate Larry Turner; Kyle Snell, right, waits for teacher Janet Jacquot to pour his milk as Police Chief David Ruebhausen talks with the other students.



### It's Starlite for stars...

Starlite Cafe is a special treat for children who have not had any disciplinary problems in the cafeteria in the past month.

They have their lunch in a special dining room with real silverware and china.

Perhaps best of all, their teachers and school staff wait on them as well.



(Staff photos by JOHN FRESE)



Principal's Secretary Melanie McFarland pours milk for the students.



Teacher Denise Ruebhausen has lunch at the Starlite with students Patrick Skinner and Larry Turner.



Chief Ruebhausen joins Amanda Canady, Ashley Austin, Leandra Beadle, Josh Melton and Kyle Snell for lunch. Nathan McFarland looks up from his lunch.



## Obituaries

## Donald Marquis

Donald Eugene Marquis, 49, of Millstadt died at 9 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25, 1996, at Willow Creek Nursing Home, Belleville. He was born Dec. 5, 1946, in Venice.

Mr. Marquis was a machinist for Illinois Central T.R.R. Rail road in the late 1960's. He was also a MACool Distributor and hearing aid specialist in the metro area.

He was preceded in death by his father, William H. Marquis Sr.; a brother, James D. Marquis; and his grandparents.

Survivors include sons, Michael and Jason Marquis, both of Freeburg; his mother, Hazel V. Marquis of Smithton; a sister, Ruth H. Bell of Belleville; and a brother, William H. Marquis Jr. of Smithton.

Visitation will be from 4 to 9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29, at Werner Chapel for Funerals, 3839 Lake Drive, Pontoon Beach. Services are scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, at Werner Chapel. Burial will be in Werner Cemetery, Fairview Heights.

## Sarah Herrin

Sarah Herrin, 80, of West Frankfort, died at 8:05 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25, 1996, at Union Hospital in West Frankfort. He was born May 1, 1916, in Helena, Ala.

Mrs. Herrin was a member of All Saints Catholic Church School Class at the Second Baptist Church in West Frankfort.

She was married to Thomas Herrin Feb. 29, 1936, in West Frankfort. She was preceded in death on April 11, 1981.

Survivors include a daughter, Brenda Wilkinson of West Frankfort; a son, Thomas Herrin Jr. of Granite City; a sister, Jewel Smith of Jacksonville, Fla.; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Services are scheduled for 2 p.m. today, Wednesday, Nov. 26, at All Saints Roman Catholic Church, 604 E. Main, West Frankfort, at the Rev. Nolan Smith officiating. Burial will be in Tower Heights Cemetery, West Frankfort.

Memorials are suggested to Second Baptist Church Day Care Center, West Frankfort, and will be accepted at the Parker-Reed Funeral Home.

## Richard Morrison

Richard A. Morrison, 37, of Glen Carbon died Monday, Nov. 25, 1996, at St. Mary's Hospital in Clayton. He was born Jan. 9, 1960, in St. Louis.

Mr. Morrison had worked as an operator at Shell Oil in Wood River since 1989. He was an adoption counselor for RAP, Inc., and Greyhounds as Pets in the St. Louis area.

A veteran, he served in the U.S. Army for two years.

Services are scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 29, at Thomas Chapel, 2205 Pontoon Road, Granite City, with the Rev. James Hahn officiating. Burial will be in Sunset Hill Memorial Estates, Glen Carbon.

## Ruby Logan

Ruby J. (Rippy) Logan, 79, of Granite City died at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25, 1996, at Colonial Care Center, Granite City. She was born March 11, 1917, in Westmoreland, Tenn.

Mrs. Logan was a homemaker and of the Methodist faith.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Maurice U. Logan, who died Oct. 1973; her parents Fletcher and Edna (Pritchett) Rippy; and a sister, Viola Clegg.

Survivors include a son, James J. Logan of Labadie, Mo.; a sister, Hazel Pierson of Granite City; three granddaughters and four great-granddaughters.

Services are scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 29, at Thomas Chapel, 2205 Pontoon Road, Granite City, with the Rev. James Hahn officiating. Burial will be in Sunset Hill Memorial Estates, Glen Carbon.

## Norris Egbert

Norris "P-Nut" Egbert, 43, of Granite City died at 2:10 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24, 1996, at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Granite City following an eight-week illness. He was born Oct. 7, 1953, in Caldwell County.

## • Tax

(Continued from Page 1A)

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Pool had said seating for the first year would be limited to about 40,000 people, but could expand to about 100,000 within a few years.

Horton objected to the fee structure, saying the city should make the tax \$1 per head starting immediately.

"It's too low; it's way too low," he said Monday.

His greatest concern was that the city had done no research about the cost of providing city services such as fire and police protection.

"If you don't know what your expenses are, how can you set a rate?" he said.

In a related matter, the council approved a resolution and agreement relating to improvements on Ohio Avenue across from the racetrack.

The agreement is subject to final council approval of the language for the easement.

The Illinois Department of Transportation worked out a deal to improve the intersection with Illinois 203 and Ohio Street. When the \$600,000 project is finished, the city will take control of the street.

The agreement deals with easements on adjacent property.

In return for easements, the city will pay half the cost of putting in access points — approximately \$30,000.

(Continued from Page 1A)

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# Tennessee company buys St. Clair Square

By Kimberly Haas  
Staff writer

Tennessee-based CBL & Associates Properties, Inc. has purchased St. Clair Square in Fairview Heights.

St. Clair Square, which has been on the market since May, is the latest in a growing number of shopping centers under construction by CBL & Associates.

Charles Lebovitz, chairman of the board, president and chief executive officer of the company, said the purchase of St. Clair Square will be a positive addition to CBL & Associates' 116 existing shopping centers.

"In 1995, St. Clair Square generated 10.5 million square foot of sales. It is the top ranking of super regional malls throughout the United States," Lebovitz said in a written statement. "This was a significant consideration in our decision to purchase this very successful mall."

The company will now complete a leasing analysis of the shopping complex and seek additional retailers.

"We are seeking a commitment to acquire an existing shopping center, we do so with the intent of enhancing the value of the property through releasing up to 100 percent of merchandise mix, as well as making every effort to expand the center," Lebovitz said.

Representatives of St. Clair Square could not be reached for comment.

CBL & Associates purchased the mall from The Prudential Real Estate Investors, the institutional real estate investment advisory unit of The Prudential.

## Senior menus

Donations for noon meals are \$2. Call day ahead for reservation 877-4373.

Wednesday, Nov. 27  
Hamburger, scalloped potatoes, stewed tomatoes, bun, chocolate chip cookies.

Thursday, Nov. 28  
STEAK CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY.

Friday, Nov. 29  
SITE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY.

Monday, Dec. 2  
Country fried steak, whipped potatoes/gravy, lima beans, wheat bread, Tropical fruit.

Tuesday, Dec. 3  
Boneless BBQ rib, potato salad, sliced carrots, wheat bread, applesauce.

## Dance to benefit fire department

Granite City Elks Lodge 1063 will sponsor a dinner dance Saturday, Nov. 30, benefiting the Granite City fire department.

The menu consists of strip steak, baked potato salad and dessert. Dinner will be served from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Music for dancing will begin at 8 p.m.

Tickets for the event are \$10 per person.

All proceeds will be used to purchase a thermal imaging helmet for use by firefighters.

## Auction set for Dec. 10 at Price

The Defense Reutilization and Marketing Offices at Scott AFB and the Charles Melvin Price Support Center in Granite City will conduct an auction of surplus government property on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

The auction will be conducted in Granite City, 6830, Waukegan Rd. Property will be available for inspection on Dec. 3-6 and Dec. 9. Property will be located at Scott AFB and Granite City. For more information, call the Scott DRMO at (618) 452-4536.

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dental Insurance Company of America.

With headquarters in Chattanooga, Tenn., CBL & Associates is a real estate investment trust which owns regional malls and community centers, primarily in the Midwest and select markets in the northeastern United States.

The company owns and manages 116 shopping centers properties in 15 states.

The shopping centers are located in 11 states.

## Judge to decide on taxi controversy

GLEN CARBON — A judge will decide in two weeks whether the village can prosecute a taxi and limousine service allegedly being operated from a private home in Glenwood.

Madison County Associate Judge Ellan Duff rejected several arguments to dismiss the zoning case, Madison, but took others under advisement. If the case moves forward, a jury trial will be set, officials said.

Village officials are charging R & B Taxi and its Vice President Robert Gayan with doing business from a home in the 300 block of West Glenn Drive in violation of village zoning ordinances.

Officials said ordinances prohibit private business in the subdivision at Illinois Route 157 and Interstate 270, which is zoned residential.

R & B Taxi President and owner Randy Steele, who requested the jury trial, said the case should have been decided at an administrative level in the village. He said a hearing was never granted.

"We should not even be here today," said Steele, who is also

an attorney in Glen Carbon. The Village Board agreed to step up legal action against the company in October after receiving neighbors' complaints about increasing traffic and noise from vans and limousines maintained and operated from the home.

Gayan has defended the company's operation, which uses a telephone and two-way radio communication to clients to dispatch vehicles at clients' requests. The company transports clients to medical appointments and other locations, according to a contract with the Illinois Department of Public Aid, he said.

The company's 16 cars are stored at a garage on Main and Peoria roads, except for two of Gayan's limousines, which are parked at his home, he said.

Village Attorney Gary E. Peck said the company took in more than \$74,000 in the last fiscal year, which ended in June. He said the income is evidence the company is a thriving business.

Village ordinances allow some types of business in the home, such as baby-sitting.

## Police beat

The following are among incidents reported recently to area police departments.

### Burglary

• Edward John Crowell Jr., 37, of the Arches Motel, was arrested at 2:45 a.m. Saturday and charged with burglary in a felony warrant issued Monday. Based on the warrant is \$4,000.

Police responding to an alarm at Coolidge Middle School, 3231 Nameoki Road, reported finding Crowell in the school. Fingerprint and foot prints were collected from the building and Crowell's shoes and gloves were confiscated as evidence.

Crowell was paroled from prison in March, according to a police report.

• Approximately \$7,500 in lottery tickets were reported stolen in a burglary in Venice early Friday morning.

At about 4:45 a.m. police responded to an alarm at the People's Market, 1001 Market St., and observed the front gate and door open.

### Drugs

• Shirley Ruth Crone, 35, of the 2400 block of Benton Street, was arrested at 1 a.m. Saturday and charged with unlawful possession of cannabis.

• Shirley Ruth Crone, 35, of the 2400 block of Benton Street, was arrested at 1 a.m. Saturday and charged with unlawful possession of cannabis.

Crone was smoking a hand-rolled cigarette alleged to have contained cannabis on the porch of Eddie's Tavern, 2900 Nameoki Road, according to a police report.

### Criminal damage

• Granite City police are investigating 16 separate reports of criminal damage to property in the past week. Among the incidents reported are:

• Six reports of tires slashed Nov. 23-24, including three vehicles that were parked in the 2400 block of Benton Street, the 2400 block of Iowa Avenue, one parked in the 2100 block of St. Clair Avenue and one parked in the 3200 block of Wabash Avenue;

• Six reports of windows damaged in a break-in on Nov. 21-24, including cars parked in the 2000 block of 13th Street, the 2000 block of Delmar Avenue, the 2000 block of State Street, the 2000 block of Yale Drive, the 2300 block of Harvard Place and the 2300 block of Zippet Avenue; and

• Four reports of windows or doors broken in break-ins Nov. 21-23, including the back door to Jacobsmeier's Tavern, 2401 Edwards Street, a door on a rental apartment building in

the 1900 block of Edison Avenue, two storm windows on a building in the 2300 block of Edison and a front window on Tropicalia grocery store, 824 Niedringhaus Avenue.

the 1900 block of Edison Avenue, two storm windows on a building in the 2300 block of Edison and a front window on Tropicalia grocery store, 824 Niedringhaus Avenue.

### Warrant arrests

• Cara L. Braswell, 18, of the 1500 block of Fifth Street, Madison, was arrested by Madison police on three outstanding warrants. Thursday afternoon, police spotted her driving a car in the 1000 block of Madison Avenue.

Braswell had outstanding warrants for failure to appear on charges of permitting an unauthorized person to drive, a seat belt violation and a child restraint violation.

She was also charged with operating an uninsured motor vehicle.

• Theresa Spearman, 27, of the 4000 block of Oakmont, Granite City, was arrested by Madison police on four outstanding warrants. Friday, Spearman was wanted for failure to appear in court and for disorderly conduct, and warrants for criminal damage to property and criminal trespass.

### Curfew violation

• A 13-year-old Venice youth was charged with a curfew violation.

lution and may face drug charges after he was arrested by Madison police early Friday morning.

At about 3:50 a.m. police responded to a report of four youths selling drugs from the street at the intersection of Second and Euclid when police and youths fought.

However, police were able to catch one hiding in the 1600 block of Third Street.

Police found a clear plastic container with two pieces of suspected crack cocaine.

### Car fire

Madison police reported a suspicious car fire in the 1800 block of Collingsville Avenue at about 1:21 a.m. Friday.

When police arrived the car — a 1985 Buick Skylark — was fully engulfed in flames. According to police, he had observed an older model four-door car with two occupants drive by, and when the witness passed the car, she noted that the back window had been busted out and the car was on fire.

The witness also said they saw a bottle in the back of the car.

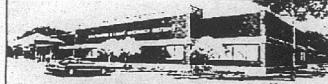
The owner said the incident might have been in retaliation of an incident several weeks ago when her husband filed battery charges against two men.

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Traditional Style, Cherry Trim	\$599
High Back Country Style	\$599

### CLOCKS

Oak Grandfather	\$799
Cherry Curio Clock	\$1099
Triple Chime Oak	\$1099
Triple Chime Cherry	\$1349

### DINING ROOMS

8pc French Set	\$1499
8pc Traditional Set	\$1499
6pc Oak Set	\$1499

### SLEEPERS

Full Size, Traditional	\$599
Queen Size, Contemporary	\$599
Queen Size 7" Mattress	\$699
Queen Size Traditional	\$699
Queen Size Camel Back	\$699

### CURIOS

Redwood, Small Size	\$299
Cherry Corner Curio	\$599
Cherry Curio Console	\$299
Oak Half Hexagon Curio	\$349

### BEDROOMS

Solid Oak 5pc Set	\$1999
Washed Solid Oak 5pc Set	\$1599
6pc Wicker w/ Sleigh Bed	\$1999

### GLIDERS & CHAIRS

Oak Glider	\$299
Tufted Back Wing Chair	\$299
Traditional Swivel Rocker	\$299
Country Swivel Rocker	\$299
Accent Chairs	\$99

### ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS

Oak or Cherry side by side unit	\$899
Cherry Armoire	\$699
Golden Oak Unit	\$749
3pc Wall System	\$2199

### BEDDING

Posture Pillow Top	
Twin Set	\$299
Full Set	\$399
Queen Set	\$499
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B

# Sports



Bob Emig

## Virgin vying for TV career in long run

Craig Virgin may be fading out of the picture as a top interviewee, but he's expected to be the regular following the hearing.

"The only thing I know until

is that he's been running the levies.

Because of

the bond caused

in his bid for

the state senator seat, I know I

had to pursue my interests in

education. I was getting close

to 30 years old, and I knew

that was age-sensitive."

With his

name recognition

and talent,

Virgin didn't

have to start at the bottom.

He worked

with KSDK

sports director

Mike Bush

last summer

at the Olympic

Track and

Field Trials in Atlanta. He did

well enough to be invited back

for the Olympics for 20 days of

work, and with Bush in

bringing the story back to St.

Louis.

"The trials were like an

audition for me, and I guess, I

passed," he said.

Virgin was part of the

nightly newscasts at the St.

Louis station during the

Olympics. He had an

opportunity to work by himself

during KSDK's noon news

during the second week of the

Olympics.

Virgin also has done color

television analysis for big road

races in Atlanta and

Chicago, Ill. He also

served as the host for the

Prairie State Games highlight

show and was a radio talk

host for WIBV in

Bethalto, Ill.

Virgin is a free-lancer now,

and he's looking to land

something on a full-time basis,

particularly in the St. Louis

market.

"Television is not like

running, where you go head to

head against someone else,"

Virgin says. "You're not

always rewarded for your hard

work. Timing and luck is all

I was happy with that."

Darnell was more than just

"pretty good" when it came to

scoring goals for the Dutchmen.

After the season, Darnell

rewrote the scoring record

book with Petri at the helm.

"It was a real close region.

All the teams were pretty

decent," said BAC soccer

coach Lars Petri. "We

were named Region 24 Coach of the Year. It's tough to try to get

more players on that. It's

the other coaches in

the region that are

the ones who I thought could possibly

be there. I think we only had

one more player on the list. I

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coach Lars Petri. "We

were named Region 24 Coach of the Year. It's tough to try to get

more players on that. It's

the other coaches in

the region that are

the ones who I thought could possibly

</

## SPORTS

## •Smith

(Continued from Page 1B)

receivers with 15.3 yards per catch. While he didn't take many handoffs from the slot, he was an effective runner at 4.7 yards per carry.

He kicked field goals of 35, 29 and 35 yards, one each in three consecutive games. His career-best was a 47-yarder his sophomore year, when he was the second-team all-conference kicker.

"I think he only missed one field goal attempt all year and that was just before halftime and it was close to 50 yards," Petrillo said. "He makes 50-yarders in practice more than half the time."

On defense, Smith led the entire Metro East in interceptions with six. He was second only to GCHS linebacker Pete McKinnon in total tackles with 100. He had 49 total tackles to lead the secondary. He was a runaway choice for first-team all-conference defensive back.

"He plays the zone very well and is great in the middle," Petrillo said. "That's probably his strongest suit. He needs a little more work on the man-to-man coverage, but he did an excellent job against Edwardsburg. If we worked at it and ran more man-to-man, he'd do

very well with it. He's one of the five fastest kids on our team, plus he has the size and strength."

Smith is not expected to be back this fall, but he's expected next year as a sophomore. Though he started last winter at guard on the sophomore basketball team, Smith would like to earn a college football scholarship, possibly considering dropping baseball this spring in favor of running for speed and conditioning purposes.

"We've received several letters from colleges," said Petrillo, "but he hasn't responded." said Ray Smith Jr., Rocky's father and a former all-conference receiver at Granite City South. Rocky's brother, senior Ray III, would be a sophomore this year as a GCHS varsity basketball starter.

NOTES: Kevin Harris received one of the three special football awards voted on by the coaches. He earned the Keith Lucas Award for courage and perseverance, usually given to seniors who overcome difficult odds to achieve on the field. The award was given to Ray Harris, who overcame recurring shoulder problems.

"Kevin actually had a separated shoulder prior to the start of the season," Petrillo said. "Then he started the first game against Cahokia. In the first series of downs, he separated his shoulder again, but he came back and played the rest of the game. He sat out another four weeks and came back and started again for us."

Senior Harold LaMondiere, who had been making the varsity roster, was given the Rudy Award for his gun-ho spirit as a scout-team practice player.

"He typifies the kid who works hard and gives you a lot of effort and doesn't receive a whole lot of playing time," Petrillo said. "There was just one question that kid gave 100 percent all the time. He didn't have all the natural ability to play in the games, but he certainly made us work hard to prepare for our games."

## •Kessler

(Continued from Page 1B)

were actually a better team for it. Corey was very impressive. He's a good defensive player and he's very strong mentally. He's a team player and a good example for the other guys around him. I could see him becoming a team captain down the road. He has leadership qualities."

Those skills were harnessed during Kessler's high school career in coach Gene Baker's Gaels program. Kessler was a senior on the '94 Warriors team that placed second at state and was loaded with such blue-chippers as Paulie Buchwald, Mike Bristol and Shawn Petroski — not to mention player in Germany.

Kessler was not widely recruited — not even by Evansville — but he visited the school and admired its engineering program. Schmautz hadn't seen much of Kessler at GCHS, but he offered a scholarship largely out of respect for Baker and the Kessler family name.

"This my 18th year coaching at Evansville and this was our 11th year qualifying for the NCAAs," said coach Samuels. "Corey's older brother Craig, Kessler played for us from 1981 to 1984. Craig played on our first-ever NCAAs team in 1982. He's still in Evansville and he's still living here with his wife. We missed the NCAAs in '83, but Craig also was a senior on our first team to ever win a tournament title, which was in 1984."

The 'Aces reached the NCAAs nine consecutive years from 1984 to 1992. They then stayed home for three straight years before returning this fall. "Maybe it's not a coincidence that Craig played on our first NCAAs team and Corey played on our first one," Schmautz said.

The Kesslers have another brother, Curt, who also played

soccer for GCHS and is now a senior engineering student at Evansville. Curt Kessler quit soccer after playing a year at GCHS to become a transfer student. He also convinced Core to choose Evansville.

Perhaps the social change on campus life was an initial draw for Corey, who reported for soccer 10 pounds overweight as a freshman.

"Corey just wasn't ready to play at this level when he came in," Samuels said.

"He's a good player, but he's not what you would call great talent. He has to work hard for everything he gets.

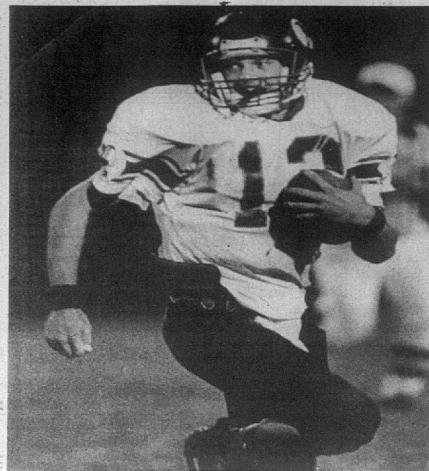
We didn't see enough of that early on last year."

Kessler responded by taking a winter weight-lifting and fitness training program. He dropped 15 pounds and reported to spring practice in the best shape of his life at 5-foot-11 and 165 pounds.

"Once Corey learned what it takes to play at this level, he really has been more determined to make him at constantly trying to become a better player," Schmautz said. "We play five spring exhibition games and he's been a big part in the fifth one again."

The 'Aces had eight wins this year. They also upset host Creighton on Nov. 17 to win the Missouri Valley Conference postseason tournament. That was overtaking, win was an unexpected win.

"We were probably a better offensive team, because we led the conference in scoring," Schmautz said. "But you don't get eight wins without playing defense. Our senior goal keeper (Mike LeBarge) is one of the best in the nation, but we also protected our zone very well. Corey Kessler was a big part of that success. He's a solid defender and a nonstop worker on the field."



Rocky Smith

I WISH  
SANTA  
WOULD  
BRING  
ME...

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## SPORTS

## •BAC•

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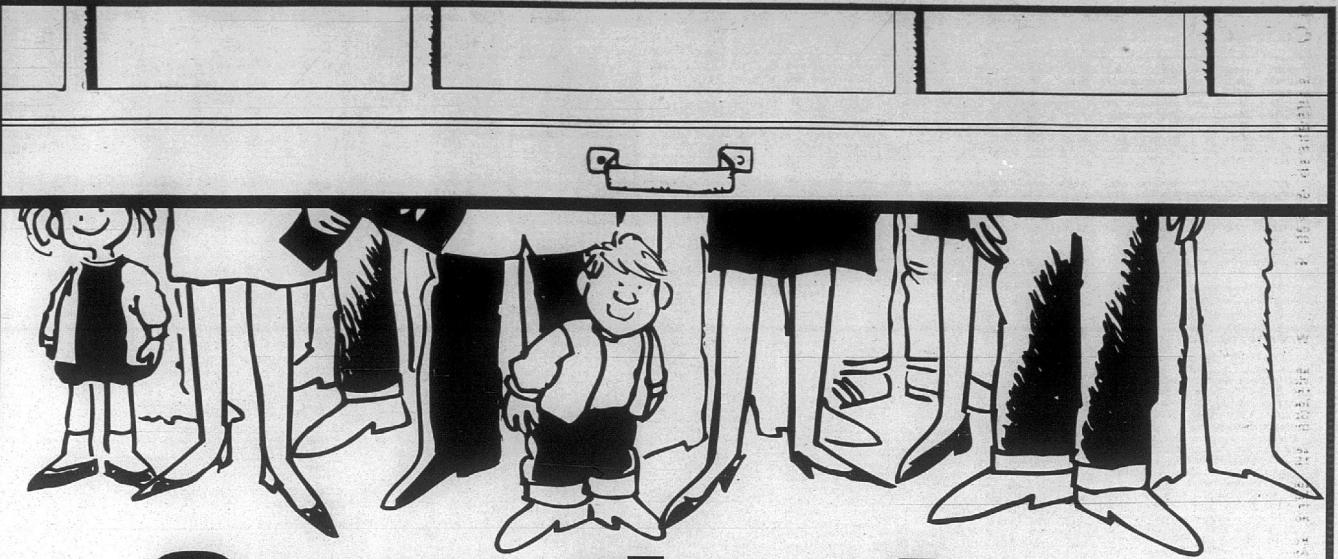
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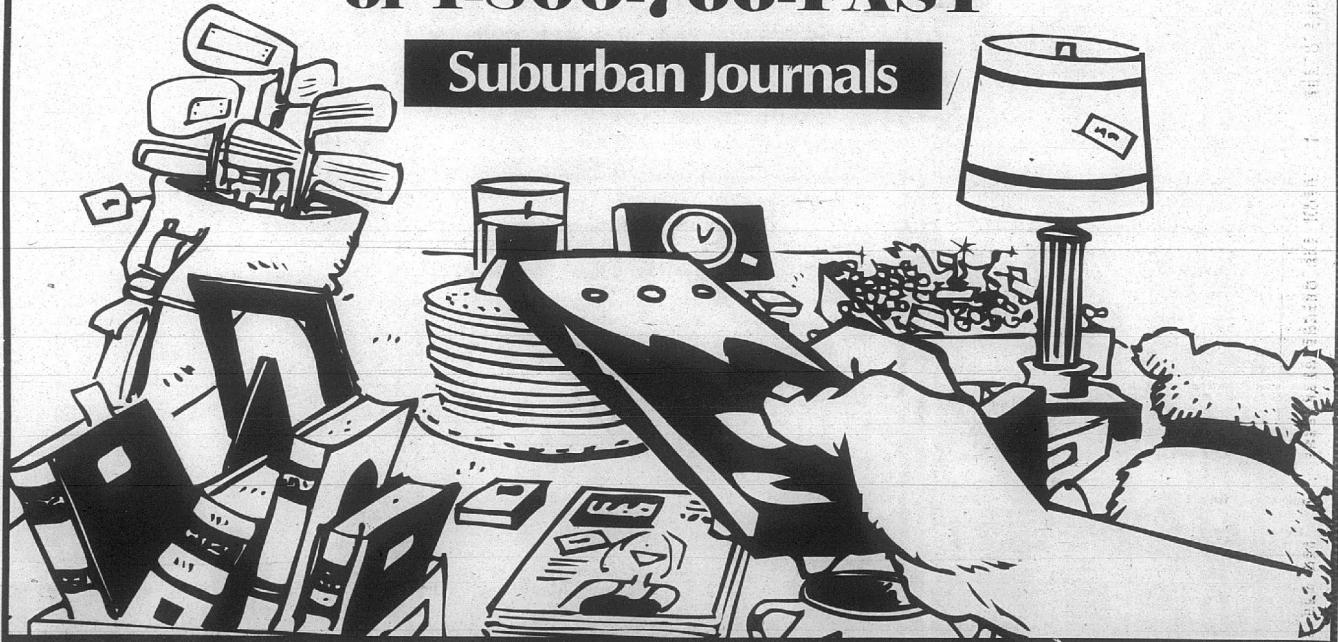
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## Calendar

Our event includes entries groups and their meetings. The first Monday of the first Tuesday etc. Readers are to call these groups or other days for more information.

Corrections, deletions of information encouraged, and may be added by calling the 876-2000.

This calendar Wednesday's Journal.

## Wednesday, Nov. 26

Dishpaners Ans Chapter 53 vice officer from the Tri-City Vets located at 1412 Granite City Center.

Pontoon Beach bingo, noon, 111, Pontoon Beach.

Pulmonary Support for persons having condition, 1 p.m. in 4-Doctors Solarium, 100th Street, Elizabethtown Medical Center.

Al-Anon, 7:15 p.m., Foundation, 600 10th Street, Elizabethtown. For more information.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., 2116 Edison, Granite City.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 p.m., St. Elizabeth's Noah's Ark Day Care Center, 100th Street, Elizabethtown. Closed last Wednesday.

Divorce and Group Ministry, 8 p.m., Eden United Church, 900 10th Street, Elizabethtown.

Parents Anonymous meets 6 to 8 p.m. on where meetings are held, call Elizabethtown 462-5714.

Madison Community Group meets a more information, 452-2336 or Diane.

## Thursday, Nov. 27

Modern America Life Institute meets at 5 p.m., Nelli's Restaurant.

Venice Park p.m., Venice Restaurant, 451-7201.

Chouteau Town Citizens, 9 a.m., Social Center, 2116 Edison.

Eagle Park A.M., Madison meet from noon at 100 Hinsdale.

Eagle Park A.C., 8 p.m., Chouteau Town Citizens, 9 a.m., Social Center, 2116 Edison.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 p.m., Granite City, 100th Street, Elizabethtown.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 p.m., Presbytery, 2363 Mitchell, Granite City.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 a.m., 2116 Club Ave., Granite City.

307-6600.

Take Off Pounds, Chapter 2363, Anchorage Recreational, 2309 Edwards Street, Elizabethtown, 797-6351 or 452-2003.

Narcotics Anonymous, 8 p.m., 2116 Club Ave., Granite City, 398-9409.

## Friday, Nov. 28

Al-Anon meets the Milonski Room at St. Elizabeth Center. Call 462-5600 for information.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., 2116 Edison, Granite City.

307-6600.

Friday Afternoon Senior Center, 12:30 p.m., Harold Brown Franklin Avenue, Granite City. Call 874-3774 for information.

STEMSS (Substance Abuse for Emotional, Serenity and Spiritual group) meets monthly at 7 p.m. at the Medical Center. Call 462-5600 for more information.

## Saturday, Nov. 29

Pontoon Beach bingo, noon, 111, Pontoon Beach.

Al-Anon, 8 a.m., Providence, 2116 Club Ave., Granite City, 398-9409.



# Avoiding mistakes

Experts can help with investments

*Financial Focus* is provided as a free service of the Granite City Journal by Jeff Prosser of Edward Jones Investment firm.

Most people would not try to navigate unknown waters without a guide. So why do so many people try to invest without professional help? One investor flying solo wrote to Kenneth Hooker, who answers financial questions in the Boston Globe. The investor owned two no-load funds. No-load funds offer their shares directly to the public rather than through a broker-dealer. Choosing the right fund, following its progress and understanding the results are typically the responsibility of the investor.

The reader said he had invested \$20,000 in each of the two funds and was ready to sell one because "it must be a dog." The "dog" had paid a dividend of \$42; the other fund paid a dividend of about 5 percent, or \$1,000.

Hooker recognized the problem. To begin, the reader did not consider his fund's results. He focused only on income rather than total return, which is income, capital gains and the increase in the value of the fund's shares. In addition, the reader was comparing two different types of funds: a growth-and-growth fund (the "dog") and a growth-and-income fund.

Of course, when you look only at the current income of a fund whose objective is aggressive growth, you are not getting the full picture. Total return gives a more accurate picture. In fact, the fund's total return for 1995 was 37.68 percent, surpassing the average aggressive growth fund's total return of 30.32 percent.

The other fund provided more income, but was not meeting its objective. But its total return, at 32.11 percent, was less than that of the "dog" the reader wanted to dump.

However, compared to an average 30.31

percent return for a growth-and-income fund,

this fund performed well.

Investors who understand what they own would be delighted with either fund. Unfortunately, this investor's confusion and lack of knowledge are all too common.

Many unhappy mutual fund investors are victims of the notion of "chasing last year's performance." If they happen to hit one that repeats its performance, they often don't understand what they own.

Still worse are those who buy funds and never monitor them. These people incorrectly assume that because they own a professionally managed investment, they don't have to monitor it.

There are more than 6,000 mutual funds available. They offer myriad objectives and achieve a wide range of returns. And understanding them can be difficult. Financial professionals are compensated by commissions or fees, but they can provide a valuable service if you ask for it.

A competent financial professional helps you long-term goals and identify risk. He or she understands how investments work and should be able to offer a variety that fit your needs. If he or she helps you invest wisely, then money will be invested in the way it is made.

Your broker should be a registered investment representative with a wealth of information to help you select the investments best suited to your needs and offer assistance and advice through your relationship.

Anyone who offers less may be just a salesperson after a quick commission rather than a professional working for your interests.

Understanding, monitoring, and changing investments when necessary are big jobs.

Enlisting the help of a professional could be a small investment that saves you from making costly mistakes.

# Tough decisions needed on Social Security fix

By Bill Hunot

Have you ever wanted to be a member of Congress? Here's your chance to make some of the tough decisions that our elected representatives are asked to make.

Social Security is in good financial health under current law. But if no changes are made now, then Social Security taxes collected in 2030 will fund only 77 percent of the benefits the system is obligated to pay in that year.

Congress has 33 years — plenty of time — to decide how to cure Social Security's ills. The medicine will be bitter: Benefits must be cut or taxes must be increased, or some combination of both.

To keep Social Security in balance for the next 33 years, Social Security's standard for long-term planning, Congress must cut benefits and/or raise taxes by a total of 2 percent of taxable payroll. Taxable payroll is the total amount of wages in the U.S. economy that are subject to Social Security taxes.

The longer the delay in treating the patient, the stronger the medicine must be.

Today's Social Security tax rate is 12.4 percent of payroll. Employees pay 6.2 percent, employers pay 6.2 percent. Raising Social Security taxes totalled by 2 percent of payroll

— to 7.2 percent on employees and 7.2 percent on employers — would raise all of the additional money needed for the next 75 years.

However, if Congress waits until 2030 to raise taxes and makes no benefit cuts, the tax rate would have to jump by 4 percent of payroll — to 8.2 percent both on employees

and employers.

Here are some other proposals and the portion of taxable payroll each would save:

• Limiting annual cost-of-living raises to half as much as lower than the Consumer Price Index, beginning in 1998, would save 0.7 percent of payroll.

• Limiting the cost-of-living raises for the most affluent retirees (up to 30th percentile of benefit recipients) would save 1.3 percent.

• Changing the computation of retirement benefits to consider the average of the highest 38 years of earnings instead of the current average high of 35 would save 0.3 percent.

• Increasing the full-retirement age of 70 (it's already 65) by a higher full-retirement age of 67 and gradually increasing the minimum age to receive benefits from 62 to 65 would yield 1.27 percent of payroll.

• Levying a federal income tax on all benefits paid after retirement, the equivalent of the Social Security taxes they paid when working would increase Social Security's funds by 0.14 percent of payroll.

• Diversifying investments of Social Security funds into stocks and bonds (not bonds now) would yield 0.56 percent of payroll.

So here's your chance to dance around the "third rail of politics." Choose a combination of savings and tax increases totaling 2 percent of payroll. Then send your choices to your elected representatives and senators. Or run for Congress yourself.

Address questions for Bill Hunot to West County Publications, 1714 Deer Tracks Trail, St. Louis, Mo. 63131.

# 'Red hot' market aids both buyers, sellers

By Doris Hanrahan  
Correspondent

If you're thinking of either selling or buying a home, now is the time to do it, while the market is hot. "It's 'red hot,'" said John George, president of the Greater Gateway Association of Realtors, a 50-year-old organization of area Realtors.

"Interest rates are down. They're hovering between 7 1/2 and 8 percent," he said.

To list or not to list is the first question sellers must answer.

"National statistics show 10 percent of people who try to sell their own homes succeed. The other 90 percent wind up listing with a Realtor," said George.

"Realtors know how to qualify potential buyers, to get to the heart of the matter (which is) income and credit," he said.

What about the agencies that offer to assist in a sale by owner?

"They're there on the seller's side, and some that concentrate only on helping buyers," said George. "They give a limited amount of money for a limited amount of money. There's a place for them in the market."

If you decide to list with a Realtor, check around for the best commission rate. It varies from 5-10 percent, but rates are often negotiable.

For existing homes, the average sale price in the area is about \$80,000s; for new construction, it's in the \$100,000s range. Average turnaround time is 120-150 days.

If you're selling, you will be required by state law to disclose any defects you know exist in the home. The law does not mandate repairs. You can negotiate those with the buyer. But, a serious problem, like a bad roof, may require repair before a lender will approve a loan.

As a buyer of an existing home, you can protect yourself by having a whole-house inspection.

"It can bring you peace of mind," George said. "It will cost about \$175 to \$200. Special inspections like radon and lead paint add to the cost."

Some sellers now offer a one-year home warranty that the seller can purchase for \$30 to

'National statistics show 10 percent of people who try to sell their own homes succeed. The other 90 percent wind up listing with a Realtor.'

— John George  
President, Greater Gateway Association of Realtors

\$400. The warranty can be an added selling attraction.

New homes usually carry warranties that range from 1 to 10 years.

When buying a new house, can you be sure it is well built? Try to follow it through all its stages of construction, George said.

"You can look at the mechanical systems, the plumbing, heating and wiring, how the walls are built and the kind of lumber being used. It's hard to tell once it's drywalled how it's been built. Then you'd be well-advised to have a whole-house inspection."

Choosing a lender is an important step in the buying process. George advised shopping for a lender, to get the best rate, before you even begin to look for a house.

You also need to know at the outset what you can afford and the amount of the loan for which you can qualify.

Once you find your dream home, deciding on the best kind of loan can be confusing.

"Talk to your lender," said George. "With the mobility in our society today, for some an adjustable mortgage is best. Others like the stability of a fixed rate," he said.

Can you trust your Realtor to work in your best interests, or does an agent represent both seller and buyer?

In Illinois, whether you are buying or selling, your real estate agent represents only you.

"You should pick one agent you trust and be loyal to that agent, and that agent will be loyal to you," said George. He suggested interviewing several agents and asking them for references.

## System eliminates need for gutter cleaning

Cleaning gutters is a chore that most people would like to avoid. But allowing gutters to clog with leaves and other debris can result in sagging gutters, rotting fascia boards, or worse.

A system, from Crane Plastics, practically eliminates the need for frequent gutter cleaning. It doesn't use standard mesh screens or plastic domes, which are only partially effective because leaves and debris merely collect

on top. Instead, the system uses the scientific principle of liquid adhesion.

As rainwater flows off the roof and over the downward steps of the gutter guard, the natural surface tension of the water causes it to follow the surface curve in the water-carrying channel and through drainage holes in the gutter. At the same time, the leaf, needle, seedling, and twig debris falls over the downward steps of the gutter guard, onto the ground below.